Water level in Gujarat

1769. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether entire State of Gujarat is standing on an empty tank as the water level of the State has gone down to all time low;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study or survey through satellite to know the most affected area of Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to mitigate the water problem of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per observations made by the Central Ground Water Board, decline in ground water level have been observed in some areas of Gujarat particularly in North Gujarat comprising Banaskantha, Mehsana, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Sabarkantha and Kheda Districts and parts of Kutch and Saurashtra whereas, rise in ground water level have been observed in some other parts of the State.

(b) and (c) Though no specific study using satellite data have been carried out by the Central Ground Water Board in Gujarat, the satellite data or imagery are being used for site selection in hard rock areas of Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat.

(d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. In order to mitigate the problem of depletion, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has undertaken pilot studies to establish feasibility of artificial recharge to ground water in Mehsana area in early eighties. CGWB has taken up further studies on ground water recharge in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar districts to boost ground water recharge. During current financial year, the CGWB has also undertaken accelerated exploration of ground water for drought

proofing in Gujarat for assisting the State Government in solving water supply problem.

Decline in per capita availability of water

1770. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for decline in the per capita availability of water in the country;

(b) the steps Government are contemplating for a comprehensive and integrated approach to water management especially in the context of its demand;

(c) if so, the details of measures proposed to be adopted by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether there has been any evaluation of the previous national water policies to ascertain the causes responsible for the decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Average annual precipitation in the country remains more or less fixed according to the natural hydrologic cycle. The per capita average annual water availability in the country is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average annual per capita water availability is estimated to be about 1829 Cu.m. in 2001 AD at national level.

National Water Policy (1987) provides for integrated management of water resources with basin as a unit of development encouraging construction of major, medium and minor schemes. Water resources development is taken up by the State Governments according to this policy. In order to meet the growing demand of water, apart from medium and minor schemes, a live storage capacity of 177 BCM has been created by construction of large dams upto 1995. Projects to add in additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and 132 BCM are under planning. The replenishable ground water is of the order of 432 BCM, out of which about 154